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## Summaries in English

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## Summaries

### Individualization and postmaterialism

by M.E. van den Dongen

Although it is widely held that a trend of individualization is taking place in the Netherlands, a clear definition of what is meant by this concept is often lacking. In this article a definition of individualization is proposed that is based on Van Deth, with one important change. According to Van Deth, individualization can be seen as the increase in the number of people with a postmaterialistic value orientation, i.e. an increase in the number of people preferring independence, self-development and emancipation to tradition, obedience and material gains. To this definition it can be objected that the relative interest that people attach to material affairs is relatively independent of their striving for self-development and independence, and therefore not relevant for the degree of individualism in their value orientation. In this article individualization is defined as an increasing appreciation for things like independence, self-development and emancipation, and a decreasing appreciation for things like tradition and obedience.

Using data from the Political Action project and the 1989 Dutch National Election Study, it is found that in the period 1974-1989 there has been no individualization in the Netherlands: the degree of individualism in value orientations has not increased, but decreased. In the article this remarkable result is discussed in relation to the operationalization that has been used.

### Dworkin's Choices and Endowments: a Politic Philosophical Foundation for an Occupational Disability Law

By Roland Pierik

In the 1980's Ronald Dworkin published four important articles on distributional justice called 'What is Equality, Part I to IV'. According to Dworkin an egalitarian distribution of resources in a society must be sensitive to ambitions people have, but must also be insensitive to people's endowments, e.g. differences in abilities. Dworkin's abstract theoretical work is elaborated in this article with regard to social security legislation and confronted with the Dutch Occupational Disability Law. The author concludes that the Dutch Occupational Disability Law is sensitive to endowments, but insensitive to ambitions. Based

on this insight the author proposes a new Disability Scheme which takes both ambitions and endowments into account.

### The nation as a construct. The case of Belgium

by Jacobus Delwaide

Belgium is often seen as an 'artificial' state which was somehow pasted on top of ethnolinguistically diverse regions. Putting the Belgian nation building process in a broader perspective, the question is raised why this process turned out to be less successful than in neighbouring societies which were in fact equally, if not more, diverse. Why didn't the Belgian state succeed in creating a culturally more homogeneous society, and why did ethno-linguistic identities ultimately become so prominent politically? A major key to the answer remains the anti-Dutch Catholic-Liberal compromise which founded the Belgian state in 1830, but which also placed portentous limits on the leeway of that state.

### Mededeling

Recentelijk zijn de volgende boeken verschenen:

- H. Anker en E.V. Oppenhuis, *Dutch Parliamentary Election Study 1994* (Amsterdam: Steinmetz Archive/Swidoc), het Engelstalige codeboek behorende bij het Nationaal Kiezersonderzoek 1994.
- H. Anker en E.V. Oppenhuis, *Dutch Parliamentary Election Panel-Study 1989-1994* (Amsterdam: Steinmetz Archive/Swidoc), het Engelstalige codeboek behorend bij het panelonderzoek van het Nationaal kiezersonderzoek 1989 en 1994.

Beide boeken zijn tegen geringe kosten te bestellen bij het Steinmetzarchief (tel. 020-6225061; e-mail: Steinm@swidoc.nl) of bij de betere boekhandel.

Het Steinmetzarchief distribueert vanaf heden een nieuwe versie van de beide bestanden. Deze bestanden corresponderen met bovengenoemde codeboeken en zijn opgevoerd volgens de gebruikelijke NK-conventies. De oude bestanden zullen niet meer worden gedistribueerd door het Steinmetzarchief.

### Rectificatie

In *Acta Politica 1995/4* is boven de boekbespreking door G.P. de Bruin ten onrechte de titel van de handelseditie van het proefschrift van Van Hees terecht gekomen. Hierdoor is een passage in de bespreking onduidelijk geworden. De titel van het oorspronkelijke proefschrift, dat besproken werd, luidt: *Rights, liberalism and social choice* (Nijmegen 1994).